

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6245
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0965

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: US UN WA PDEV SOPN
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, JUNE 10

AMB. MCHENRY: "IN MY CAPACITY AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIVE COUNTRIES, I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS THE STATEMENT WHICH THE TURNHALLE RELEASED TODAY AND THE STATEMENT FOLLOWS:
WITH REGARD TO THE STATEMENT MADE TODAY BY THE TURNHALLE GROUP, THE FIVE MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS REGARDING A TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION FOR NAMIBIA.
WE DID STATE THAT A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO US WAS UNACCEPTABLE.
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ABLE BECAUSE IT WAS PREDOMINANTLY ETHNIC BASED, LACKED NEUTRALITY, AND APPEARED TO PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF FREE ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

'ALTHOUGH THE TURNHALLE GROUP GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ORIGINATED THE IDEA OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL FOR NAMIBIA, THIS WAS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES AIRED IN OUR APRIL TALKS WITH THE SOUTH

AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

'AS TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, WE WOULD JUDGE THAT MOVE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO OUR AIM TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIA QUESTION.'

"THAT'S ALL I WANT TO SAY ON THAT SUBJECT."

Q: "MR. MCHENRY, YOU SPOKE OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, IS THIS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "NO, AT THAT POINT THE STATEMENT REFERS ONLY TO AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIA QUESTION THAT ULTIMATELY WHAT IS DONE IN THE TERRITORY WITH REGARD TO DETERMINE ITS FUTURE STATUS HAS TO BE SOMETHING WHICH MEETS WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, IF IT IS GOING TO ULTIMATELY RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF THE TERRITORY."

Q: "IN TERMS OF YOUR STATEMENT THAT YOU REGARD THIS AS A HELPFUL SOLUTION, OR A HELPFUL PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, COULD WE UNDERSTAND FROM THIS THAT THE FIVE DELEGATIONS WOULD PROMOTE THIS IDEA TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS;"

AMB. MCHENRY: "THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY ON THAT IS THAT THAT WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS AND INDEED THE DISCUSSIONS BEFORE THEN AND VARIOUS AIDE-DEMARCHES WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. AND, I DON'T WANT TO ISOLATE THAT PARTICULAR ITEM AND GO BEYOND WHAT I SAID."

Q: "WAS THERE ANY MENTION OF TIME SCALES?"
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AMB. MCHENRY: "JUST ADDRESSING THE TURNHALLE STATEMENT TODAY AND IN THE TURNHALLE STATEMENT TODAY BOTH OF THOSE ASPECTS THEY HAD WHICH I WANT TO CLARIFY AND I DON'T WANT TO GO BEYOND THAT."

Q: "YOU STATED THAT THERE WAS A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO YOU WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WAS ETHNICALLY BASED; CAN YOU SAY EXACTLY WHAT THAT WAS?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "WELL, LET ME REFER AGAIN TO THE TURNHALLE STATEMENT WHICH SPOKE OF A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. WE HAD NO DETAILS AS TO WHAT THE NATURE OF THAT AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE BEEN AND WHAT WAS PROPOSED IN TERMS OF DETAILS WAS WHAT WE FOUND TO BE UNACCEPTABLE."

Q: "DO YOU TAKE IT THEN THAT THEY WERE PROPOSING SOMETHING THAT WAS BASED ON THE TURNHALLE?"

AMB. MCHENRY: WELL, WE TAKE IT THAT IT WAS ALONG THE LINES I DESCRIBED AS ETHNICALLY BASED, THAT IS, PREDOMINANTLY ETHNICALLY BASED, LACKED NEUTRALITY, AND APPEARED TO PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF FREE ELECTIONS."

Q: "THE TURNHALLE HAS ASKED FOR ELECTIONS, FREE ELECTIONS,

IF SWAPO DOES NOT GO ALONG WITH THE IDEA OF FREE ELECTIONS,
IS THERE ANY POINT AT WHICH THE FIVE OR THE CONTACT
GROUP WOULD SAY, LOOK, WE'VE TRIED TO ARRANGE THIS
THING AS BEST WE CAN; WE CAN'T WAIT INDETERMINATELY FOR
YOU TO ACCEPT THE TERMS AND WE THINK IT'S FAIR ENOUGH AND
GO AHEAD WITHOUT SWAPO. OR MUST SWAPO BE INCLUDED IN;
IF SWAPO REJECTS IT, DO YOU REJECT EVERYTHING?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF PARTIES WITH
WHOM THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE DIS-
CUSSED, AND I THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ME TO SAY
WHAT OUR POSITION WOULD BE ON THE QUESTION WHICH YOU
RAISED, OR EVEN TO SPECULATE IF THAT IS ANY POSSIBILITY--
POSSIBILITY GOES TO BOTH PARTS OF YOUR QUESTION WHICH IS
THE POSSIBILITY THAT SWAPO WOULD OPPOSE IT AND THE
POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL THEN PRESS SOMEONE.

"QUESTION THREE?

"I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS-- WHAT WE HAVE IS A GENERAL
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AGREEMENT THAT WE WILL PUT OUT THE STATEMENT WHICH WE
READ TO YOU TODAY AT THE VERWOERD BUILDING BUT THAT THAT
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR ANSWERING OR COMMENTING ON THE
TURNHALLE STATEMENT AS WE HAD BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON
IT EARLIER IN THE DAY AND THAT'S WHY I'M LIMITING YOUR
QUESTIONS.

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Q: "COULD YOU GIVE US AN IDEA, EVEN OFF THE RECORD, OF WHAT YOU THINK THE CHANCES ARE OF THE PROPOSALS AS THEY STAND NOW BEING ACCEPTED BY SAY, THE UNITED NATIONS OR WOULD YOU THINK THE UN WOULD AGREE GETTING INVOLVED IN THE ELECTIONS?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "THE ONLY THING I CAN DO ON THAT IS TO REFER YOU BACK TO THE STATEMENT WHICH WE MADE AT THE VERWOERD BUILDING WHICH IS THAT WE FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS HERE FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE. AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO REPORT BACK TO OUR GOVERNMENTS AFTER WHICH WE ANTICIPATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED
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AND THAT WE ALSO ANTICIPATED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. I THINK I CAN'T GO BEYOND THAT."

Q: "YOU COULDN'T ELABORATE ON THE OTHER PARTIES?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "THE OTHER PARTIES?"

Q: "FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, SWAPO, ANY HINTS OR IDEAS?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "THE OTHER PARTIES IN THIS DISPUTE ARE, I THOUGHT, WERE, WELL KNOW, YOU'VE GOT THE UN (Q: FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS?) WELL, I THINK IT'S BASICALLY THE UN AND NAMIBIANS--NAMIBIANS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF NAMIBIA AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: "INDIRECTLY THAT WOULD MEAN SWAPO, I PRESUME."

AMB. MCHENRY: "I SAID NAMIBIANS."

Q: "AMB. MCHENRY, WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL HAVE TO BE SOMEBODY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES?"

AMB. MCHENRY: "NO ONE, I DONT WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT, I LOOK ON THAT AS BEYOND THE TURNHALLE STATEMENT TODAY; I THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO COMMENT. I'M SORRY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE CONVENIENT FOR YOU AND FAR LESS DIFFICULT HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS OVER AT THE VERWOERD BUILDING, BUT I THINK WE LEFT WHILE YOU WERE WAITING AT PARLIAMENT STREET.

THANK YOU."BOWDLER

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